

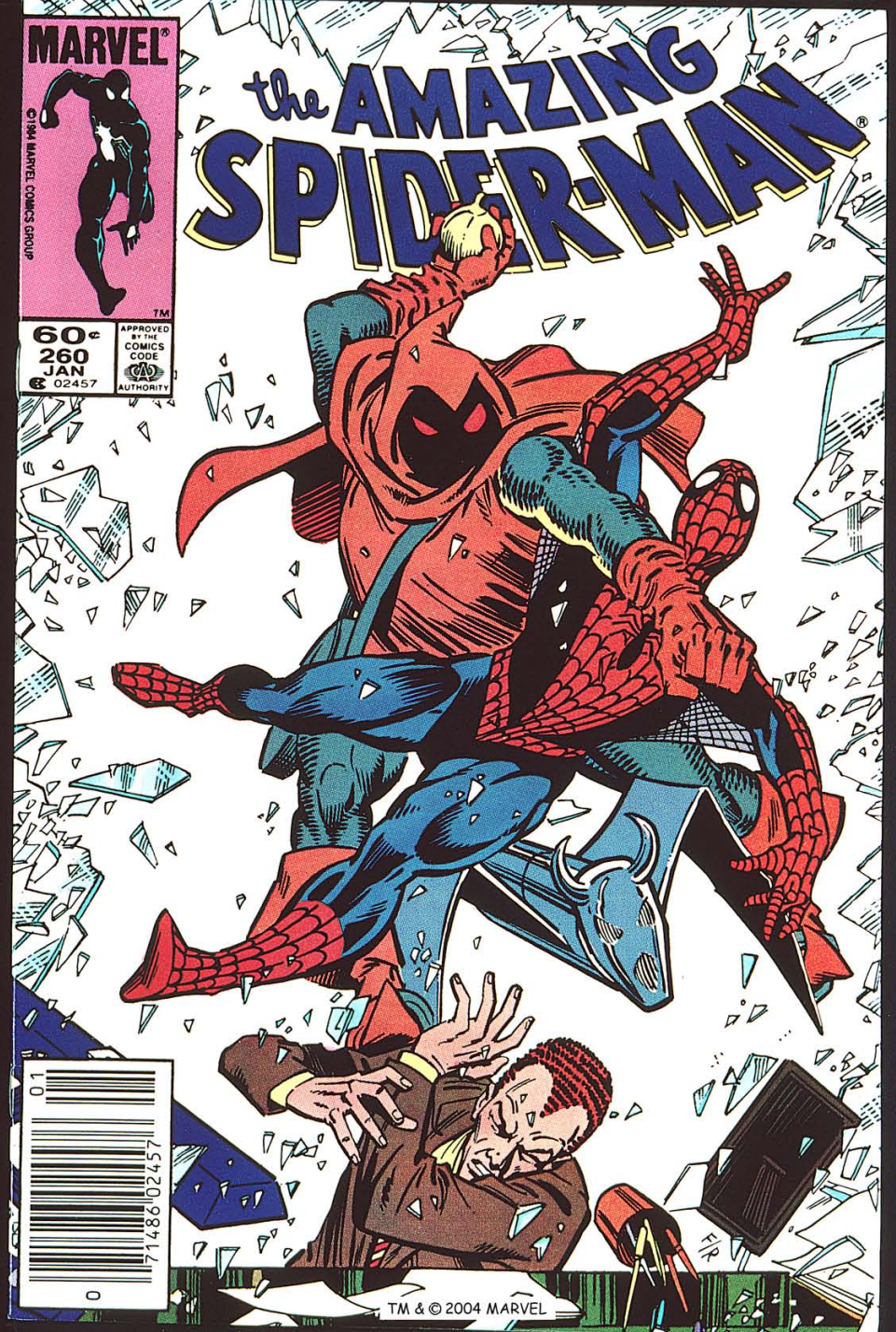
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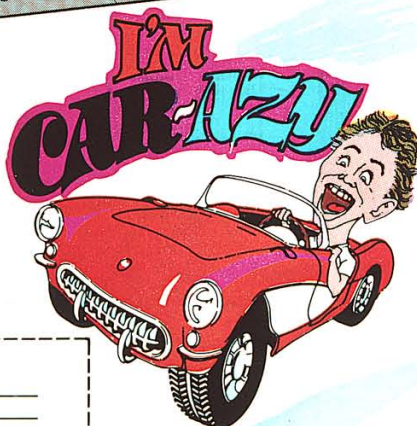
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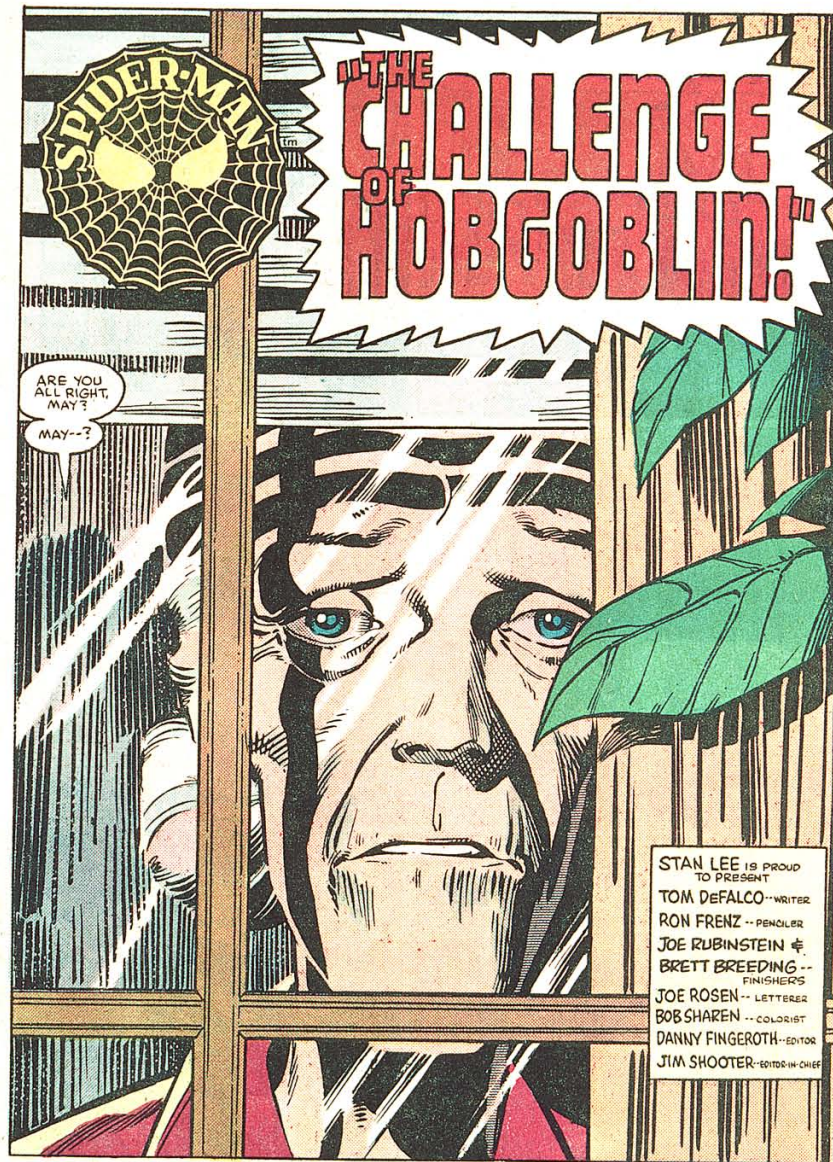
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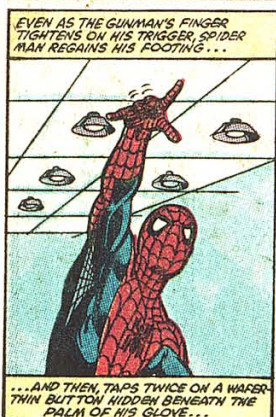
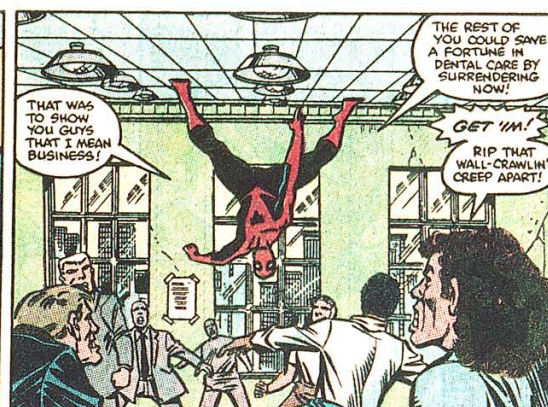
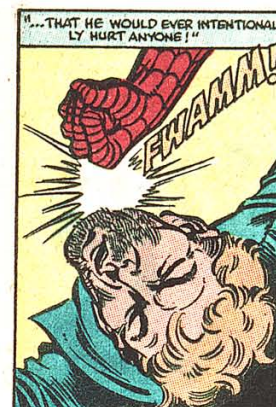
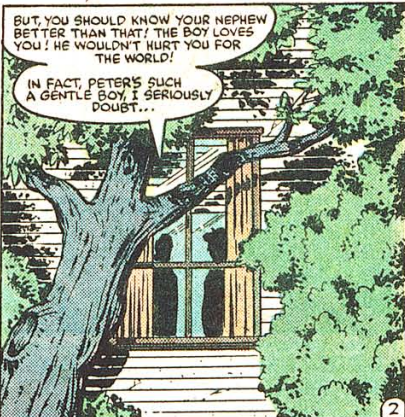
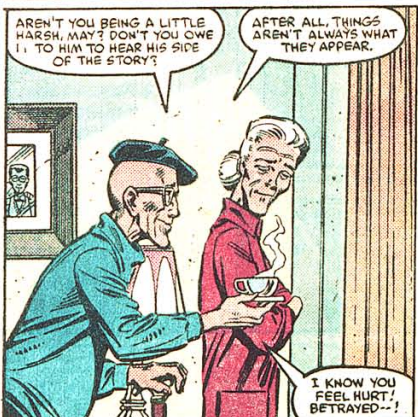
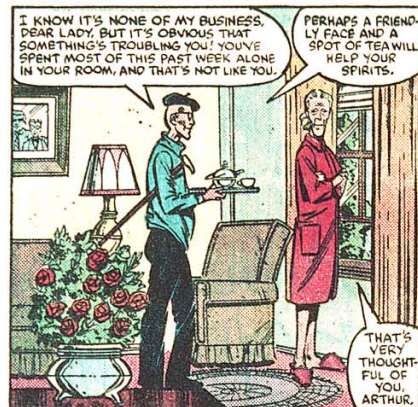
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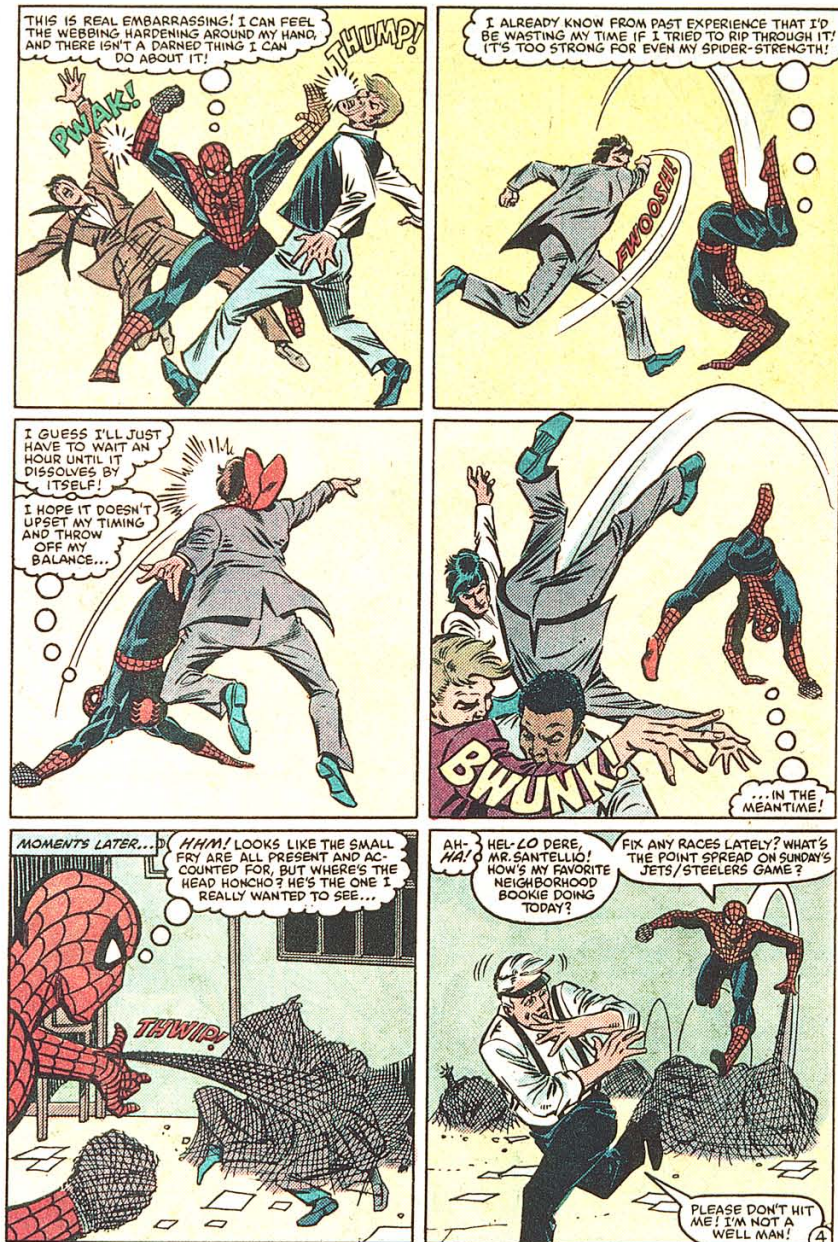
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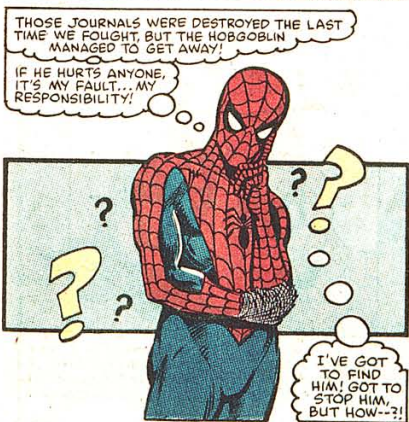
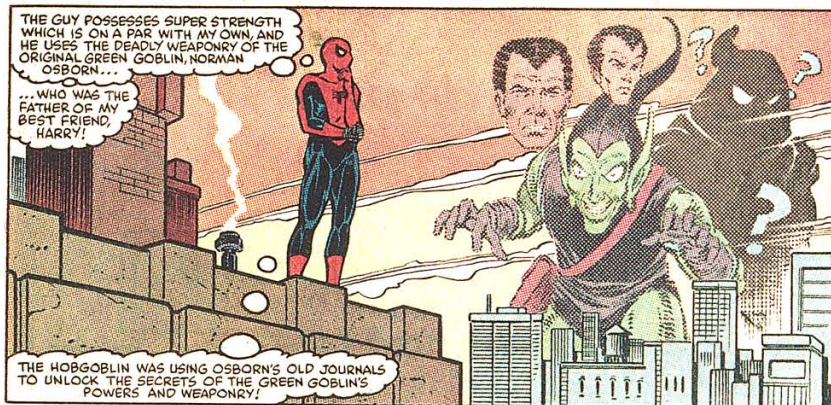
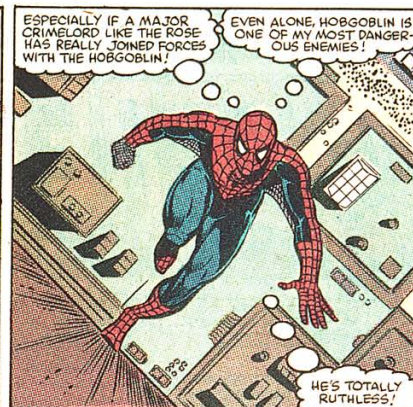
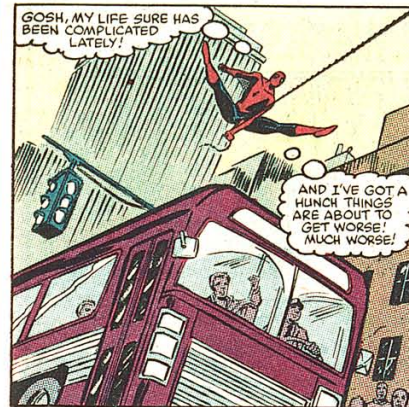
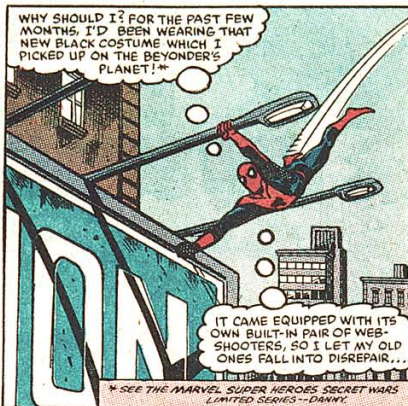
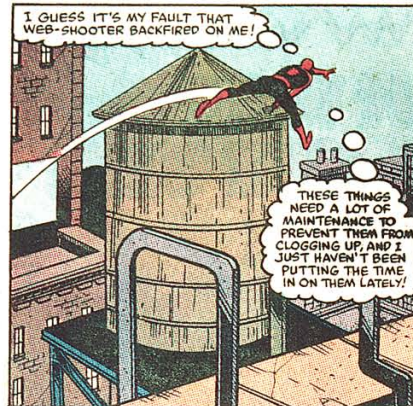


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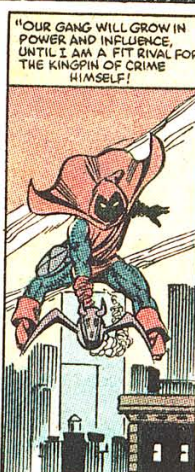
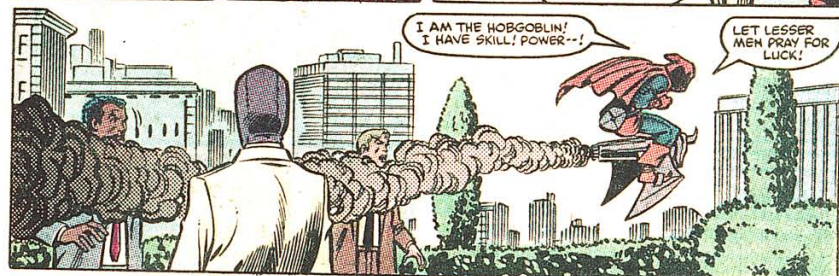
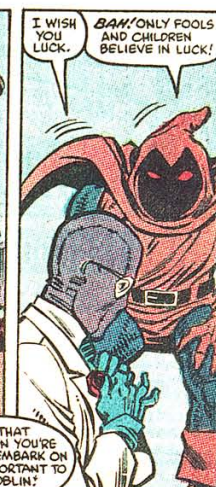
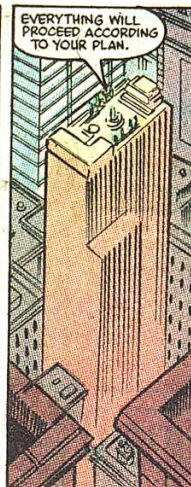
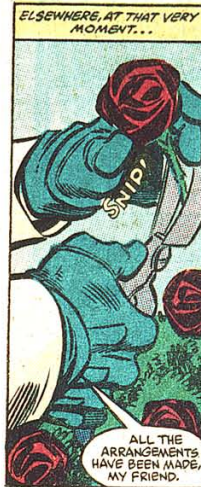
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JUST THEN, IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...

HAVE TO HURRY! I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET LIZ AND HARRY OVER FIVE MINUTES AGO!

I JUST HOPE NOTHING CROPS UP TO SPOIL THEIR HAPPINESS!

HI, LIZ! HARRY! I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WAITING LONG!

THE GARDEN RESTAURANT

NOT AT ALL, MARY JANE! WE'VE BEEN WINDOW-SHOPPING!

I'M AFRAID LIZ'S LITTLE LUNCHEON IS GOING TO END UP COSTING ME A LOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR!

I'M SURE YOU CAN AFFORD IT, HARRY!

I ENVY THOSE TWO! THEY'RE SO HAPPY TOGETHER!

MARRIED LIFE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO AGREE WITH THEM, AND THEY'RE BOTH EXCITED ABOUT BECOMING PARENTS!

WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW UP!

MY, MY, YOU'RE SHOWING A LOT MORE THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU!

3-GIGGLE! I SHOULD HOPE SO--! THE BABY'S DUE ANY DAY NOW!

ENJOY YOUR LUNCH, LADIES! I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU AFTER I'VE SEEN TO SOME WORK IN THE OFFICE.

THAT'S HER--!

SHE'S THE ONE WE WANT!

I'M SORRY HARRY COULDN'T JOIN US TODAY!

SO AM I! HE COULD USE A BREAK; HE'S BEEN WORKING SO HARD LATELY...

THEY'RE ENTERING THE RESTAURANT! WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR MOVE?

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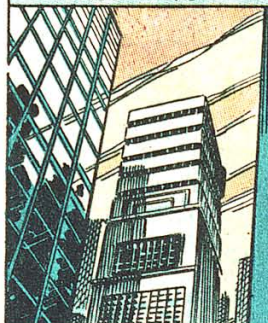
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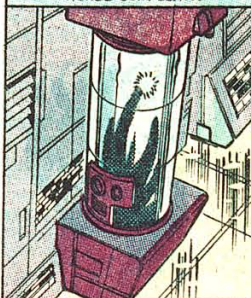
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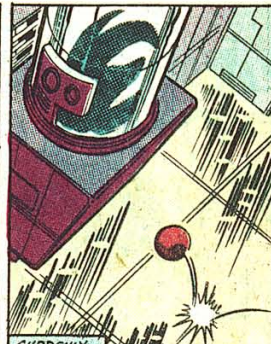


--THE BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

INSIDE ONE OF THE MANY LABORATORIES THAT FILL THIS MADISON AVENUE COMPLEX...



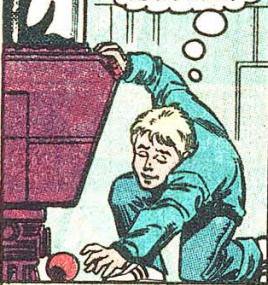
...THE ALIEN ENTITY, WHICH HAD BEEN SPIDER-MAN'S COSTUME, DESPERATELY SEARCHES FOR A MEANS TO ESCAPE ITS PRISON...



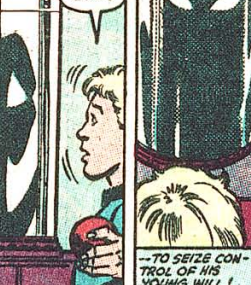
SUDDENLY, THE ENTITY DETECTS ANOTHER'S PRESENCE...

...YOUNG FRANKLIN RICHARDS!

I'D BETTER GET MY BALL BEFORE DADDY SEES ME. HE DOESN'T LIKE ME PLAYING NEAR HIS LABORATORIES!



FOR A LONG MOMENT, THE ENTITY STUDIES THE FIVE YEAR OLD BOY! AND THEN, A PLAN IS FORMED--!



OH--!

TO SEIZE CONTROL OF HIS YOUNG WILL!

CATCHING THE CHILD'S GAZE, THE ENTITY ATTEMPTS TO REACH HIS MIND--



BUT THEN, EVEN AS THE ENTITY INCREASES HIS MENTAL ASSAULT--



--CERTAIN PSYCHIC BARRIERS BEGIN TO CRUMBLE--



AND SUDDENLY, THE ENTITY SENSES SOMETHING BEING RE-LED WITHIN THE BOY...

...SOMETHING HORRIBLE! UNCONTROLLABLE--!

--TO FAIL!

OR DOES THE ALIEN ENTITY BREATHE AN AUDIBLE SIGH OF RELIEF AS YOUNG FRANKLIN RICHARDS IS LED AWAY?



ONLY TIME WILL TELL...

HOWEVER, JUST THEN...

THERE YOU ARE, FRANKLIN! MOMMY'S BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU! IT'S TIME TO GO HOME TO BELLE PORTE! FRANKLIN--?

ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT, HONEY?

MOMMY...



DOES SOME UNNAMED PIECE OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CHOOSE TO HUM AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT--

10

MY... HEAD HURTS, MOMMY!

OH, DEAR! I HOPE YOU'RE NOT COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING!

...



...

...

11

ELSEWHERE...

I HAVEN'T WANTED TO WORRY LIZ NEEDLESSLY, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT OSBORN MANUFACTURING IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, LIZ AND I ARE PROTECTED, MY INHERITANCE GUARANTEES US FINANCIAL SECURITY--

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-- BUT THAT ISN'T THE POINT! MY FATHER BUYS THIS COMPANY FROM THE GROUND UP!

IT'S ONE OF HIS FEW WORTHWHILE ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

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AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT OSBORN MANUFACTURING!

BUT, AS THE SON OF NORMAN OSBORN, I HAVE AN EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY!

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IT'S AN OBVIOUS TAKE-OVER BID!

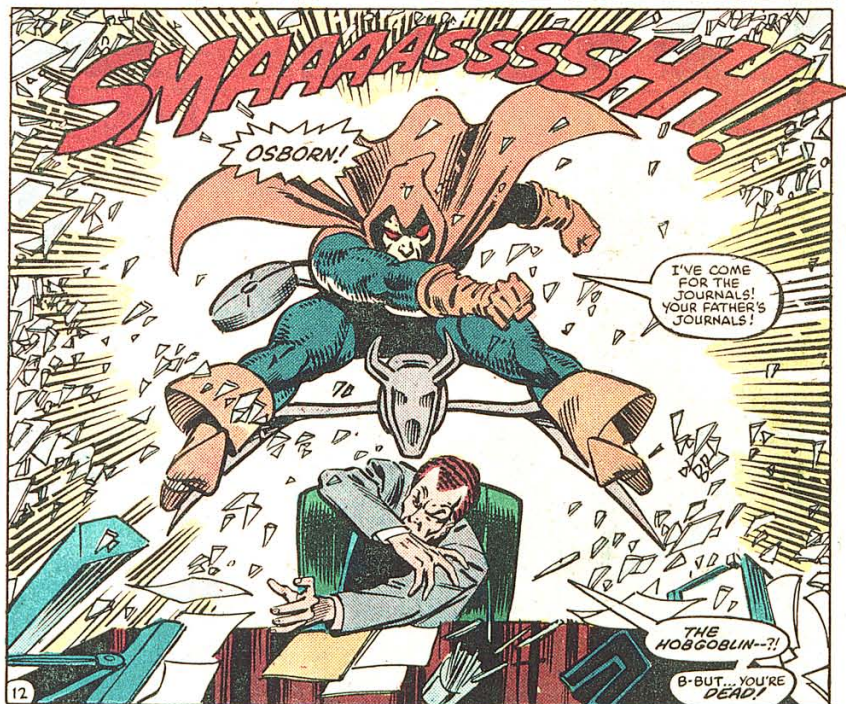
BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE AND EXPENSE OF SETTING UP SUCH A COMPLICATED BUSINESS MANEUVER?



MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS SOMEONE WHO'S TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL OF MY FATHER'S COMPANY? WHAT DOES HE WANT?!



OH, DAD, I NEVER HAD YOUR COURAGE OR STRENGTH. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, OR WHERE TO TURN...



OSBORN!

I'VE COME FOR THE JOURNALS! YOUR FATHER'S JOURNALS!

THE HOBGOBLIN--?!
B-BUT... YOU'RE DEAD!



UNFORTUNATELY, FOR YOUR SAKE, I AM QUITE ALIVE!

I AM SURE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MAD FATHER KEPT RECORDS-- SECRET JOURNALS-- OF HIS EXPLOITS AS THE GREEN GOBLIN!



SPIDER-MAN DESTROYED MY COPIES -- BUT NORMAN OSBORN WAS A CAUTIOUS MAN! HE MUST HAVE MADE OTHER COPIES!

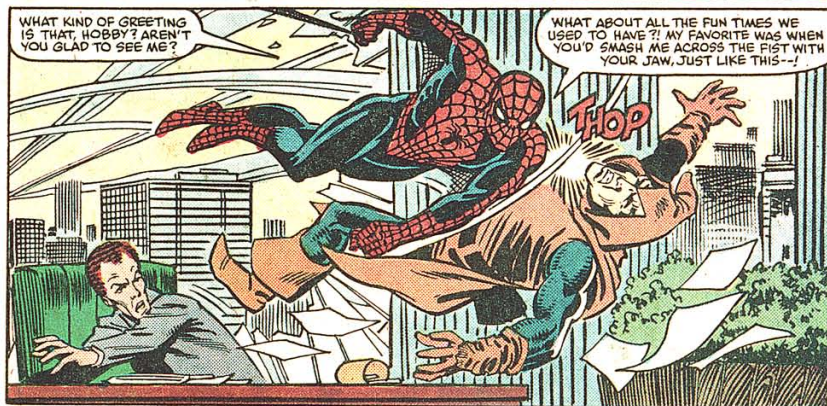
I WANT THEM! NOW!

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



DON'T PLAY ME FOR A FOOL, OSBORN! I'M CERTAIN YOU HAVE THOSE JOURNALS HIDDEN AWAY! BUT YOU'LL ONLY BE TOO GLAD TO AGREE TO TRADE THEM ONCE YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER.

OH, NO!



WHAT KIND OF GREETING IS THAT, HOBBY? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

WHAT ABOUT ALL THE FUN TIMES WE USED TO HAVE? MY FAVORITE WAS WHEN YOU'D SMASH ME ACROSS THE FIST WITH YOUR JAW, JUST LIKE THIS--!

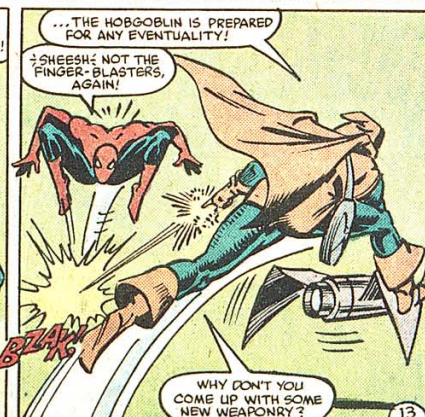
THOP



MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! I KNEW HE'D COME AFTER HARRY SOONER OR LATER!

UH-OH! HE'S TENSING! GETTING READY TO STRIKE--!

SPIDER-MAN! I DIDN'T PLAN TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU JUST YET! BUT, NO MATTER...



...THE HOBGOBLIN IS PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY!

3 SHEESH! NOT THE FINGER-BLASTERS, AGAIN!

WHY DON'T YOU COME UP WITH SOME NEW WEAPONRY?



AREN'T YOU TIRED OF USING THE GREEN GOBLIN'S OLD HAND-ME-DOWNS?!

WHAT'S WITH HARRY? WHY DOESN'T HE RUN FOR COVER?

MOVE IT, OSBORN! GET OUT OF HERE!



IT'S NO USE! HE'S FROZEN WITH FEAR!

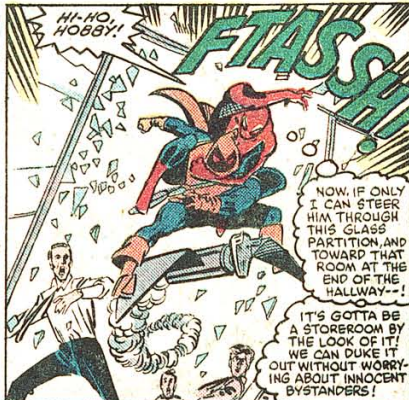
I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO DIRECT THIS FIGHT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

AND, HERE COMES MY CHANCE--!



I DID IT! THE HOBGOBLIN DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO SUDDENLY SPRING FORWARD AND FORCE HIM THROUGH THIS DOOR!

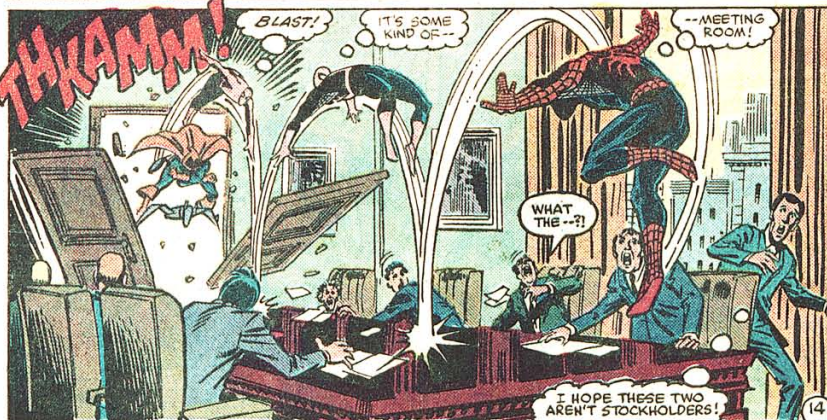
BRAKKK!



FTASSH!

NOW, IF ONLY I CAN STEER HIM THROUGH THIS GLASS PARTITION, AND TOWARD THAT ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY--!

IT'S GOTTA BE A STOREROOM BY THE LOOK OF IT! WE CAN DUKE IT OUT WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!



THKAMM!

BLAST!

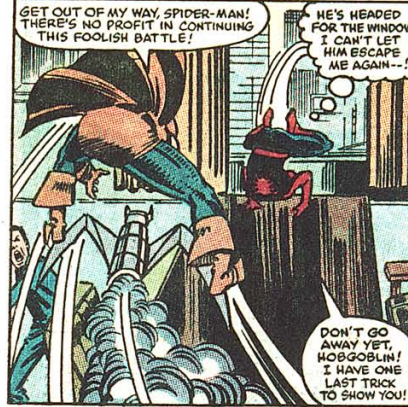
IT'S SOME KIND OF--

--MEETING ROOM!

WHAT THE --?!

I HOPE THESE TWO AREN'T STOCKHOLDERS!

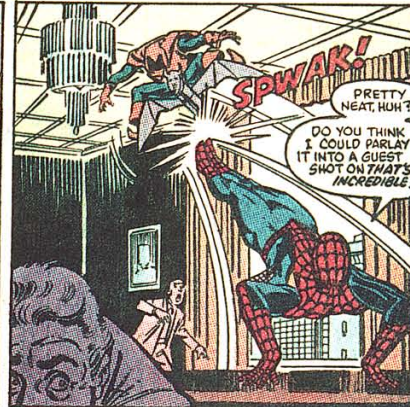
14



GET OUT OF MY WAY, SPIDER-MAN! THERE'S NO PROFIT IN CONTINUING THIS FOOLISH BATTLE!

HE'S HEADED FOR THE WINDOW! I CAN'T LET HIM ESCAPE ME AGAIN--!

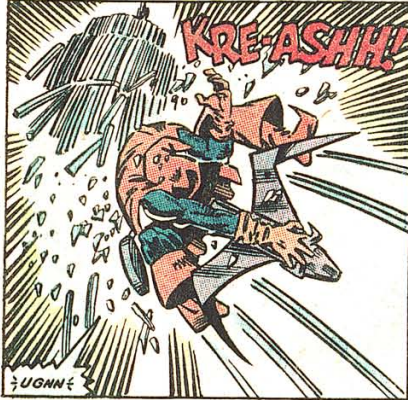
DON'T GO AWAY YET, HOBGOBLIN! I HAVE ONE LAST TRICK TO SHOW YOU!



SPWAK!

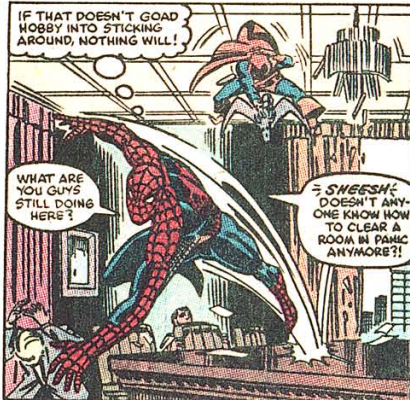
PRETTY NEAT, HUH?

DO YOU THINK I COULD PARLAY IT INTO A GUEST SHOT ON THAT'S INCREDIBLE?



KRE-ASHH!

UGNN



IF THAT DOESN'T GOAD HOBBOY INTO STICKING AROUND, NOTHING WILL!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS STILL DOING HERE?

== SNEESH == DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW HOW TO CLEAR A ROOM IN PANIC ANYMORE?!



HEAD FOR THE FIRE EXITS, PEOPLE!

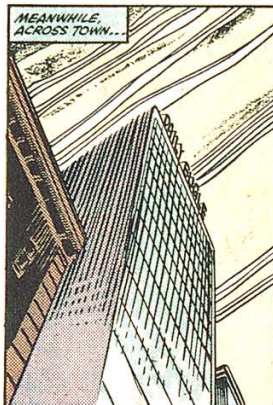
I'VE GOT A NASTY FEELING THAT THINGS ARE GOING TO GET PLENTY HOT AROUND HERE!



I HAD NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING YOU, SPIDER-MAN! I WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO LEAVE! TO LET YOU LIVE--!

NO MORE!

15



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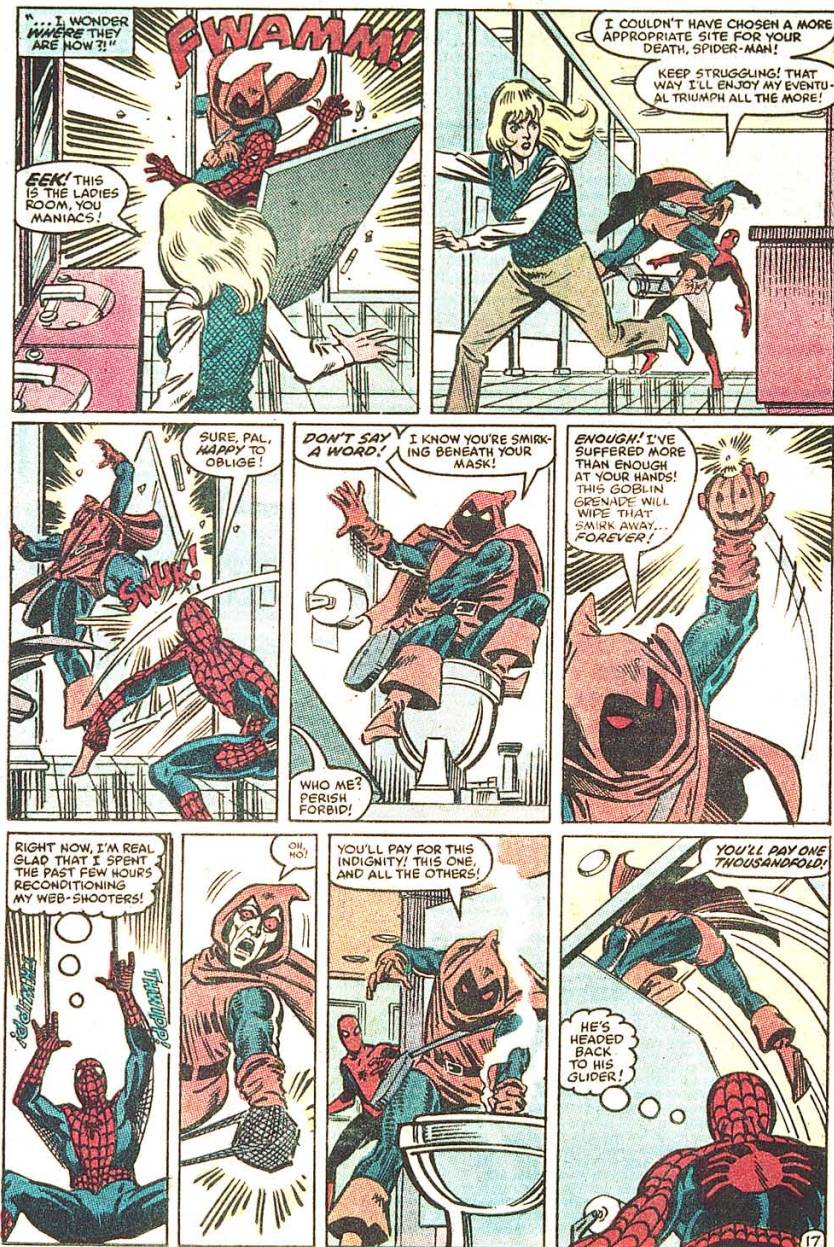
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#731-732-\$1.50 #733-734-\$1.00 #735-736-\$1.50 #737-738-\$1.00 #739-740-\$1.50 #741-742-\$1.00 #743-744-\$1.50 #745-746-\$1.00 #747-748-\$1.50 #749-750-\$1.00 #751-752-\$1.50 #753-754-\$1.00 #755-756-\$1.50 #757-758-\$1.00 #759-760-\$1.50 #761-762-\$1.00 #763-764-\$1.50 #765-766-\$1.00 #767-768-\$1.50 #769-770-\$1.00 #771-772-\$1.50 #773-774-\$1.00 #775-776-\$1.50 #777-778-\$1.00 #779-780-\$1.50 #781-782-\$1.00 #783-784-\$1.50 #785-786-\$1.00 #787-788-\$1.50 #789-790-\$1.00 #791-792-\$1.50 #793-794-\$1.00 #795-796-\$1.50 #797-798-\$1.00 #799-800-\$1.50 #801-802-\$1.00 #803-804-\$1.50 #805-806-\$1.00 #807-808-\$1.50 #809-810-\$1.00 #811-812-\$1.50 #813-814-\$1.00 #815-816-\$1.50 #817-818-\$1.00 #819-820-\$1.50 #821-822-\$1.00 #823-824-\$1.50 #825-826-\$1.00 #827-828-\$1.50 #829-830-\$1.00 #831-832-\$1.50 #833-834-\$1.00 #835-836-\$1.50 #837-838-\$1.00 #839-840-\$1.50 #841-842-\$1.00 #843-844-\$1.50 #845-846-\$1.00 #847-848-\$1.50 #849-850-\$1.00 #851-852-\$1.50 #853-854-\$1.00 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#979-980-\$1.50 #981-982-\$1.00 #983-984-\$1.50 #985-986-\$1.00 #987-988-\$1.50 #989-990-\$1.00 #991-992-\$1.50 #993-994-\$1.00 #995-996-\$1.50 #997-998-\$1.00 #999-1000-\$1.50



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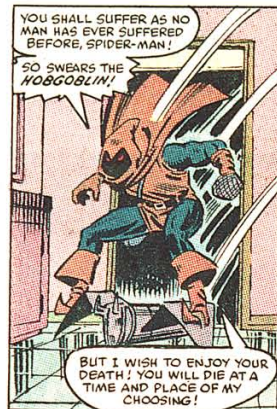
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Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.
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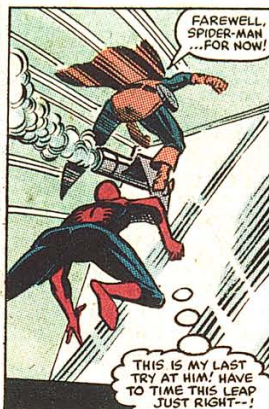
YOU SHALL SUFFER AS NO MAN HAS EVER SUFFERED BEFORE, SPIDER-MAN!

SO SWEARS THE HOBGOBLIN!

BUT I WISH TO ENJOY YOUR DEATH! YOU WILL DIE AT A TIME AND PLACE OF MY CHOOSING!



I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU NOW! I'VE ALREADY WASTED TOO MUCH OF MY VALUABLE TIME HERE!



FAREWELL, SPIDER-MAN...FOR NOW!

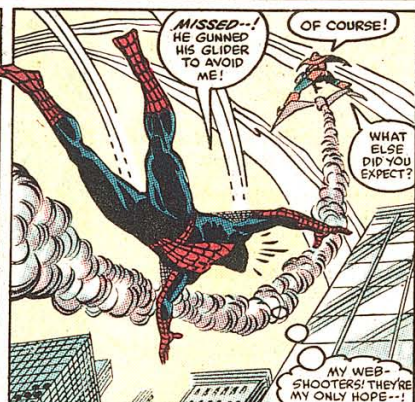
THIS IS MY LAST TRY AT HIM! HAVE TO TIME THIS LEAP JUST RIGHT--!



IT'S SPLATTER CITY IF I'M THE LEAST BIT OFF--!

GERONIMO!

KRASH!



MISSED--! HE GUNNED HIS GLIDER TO AVOID ME!

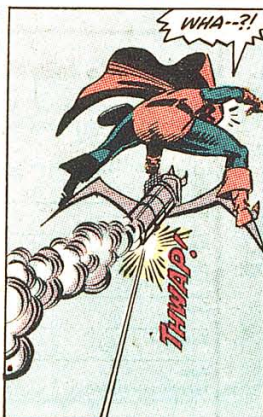
OF COURSE!

WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT?

MY WEB-SHOOTERS! THEY'RE MY ONLY HOPE--!



I'M DEAD MEAT IF THEY GUN UP ON ME NOW! I ONLY HAVE TIME FOR ONE SHOT--!



WHA--?!



YOU NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME, SPIDER-MAN! ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO KILL YOU?!

18



PERHAPS, IF I'M PERSISTENT, I'LL FIND A WAY THIS TIME!

YEOW!



THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

IF I COULD TAKE AIM-- SNAG HIM WITH A SECOND WEB-LINE-- I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO FORCE HIM TO LAND THE GLIDER!



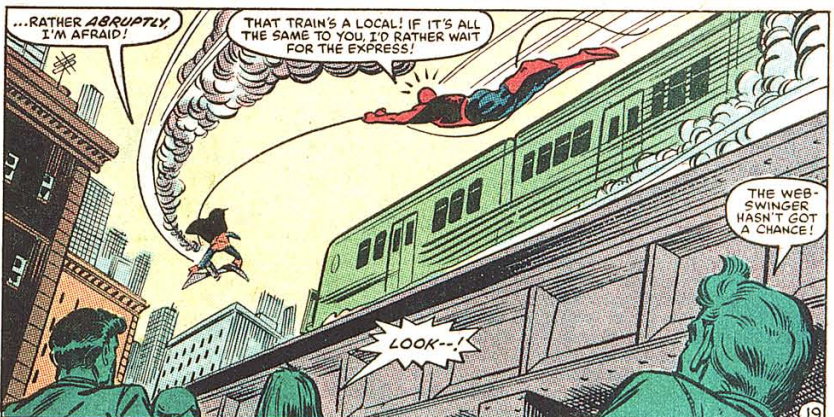
I KNOW YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING, SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE MUCH TOO RESOURCEFUL TO MEELY ACCEPT YOUR FATE-- BUT ALL YOUR EFFORTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE!



IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM-- WHILE I'M BUSY DODGING HIS BLASTS!



DON'T WORRY, SPIDER-MAN! YOU AND I ARE ABOUT TO PART COMPANY...



...RATHER ABRUPTLY, I'M AFRAID!

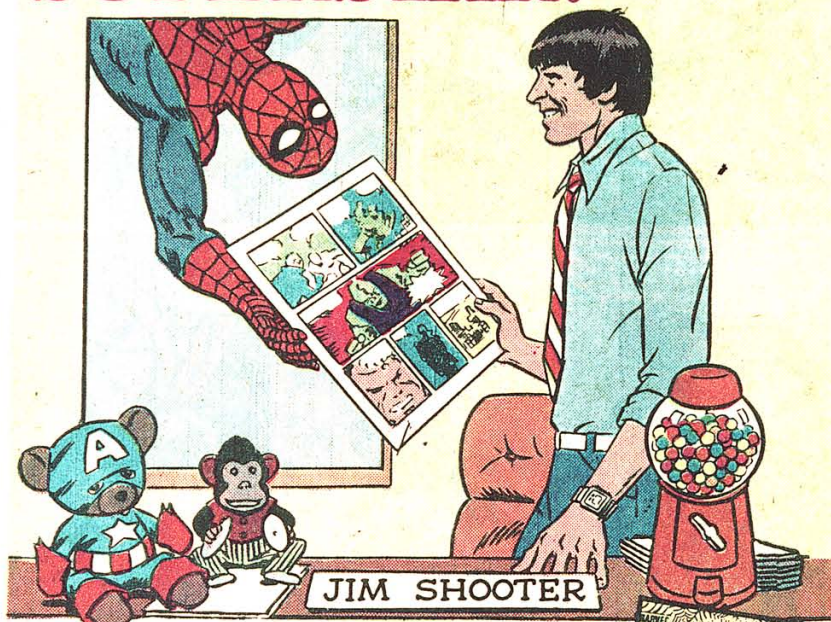
THAT TRAIN'S A LOCAL! IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I'D RATHER WAIT FOR THE EXPRESS!

LOOK--!

THE WEB-SWINGER HASN'T GOT A CHANCE!

19

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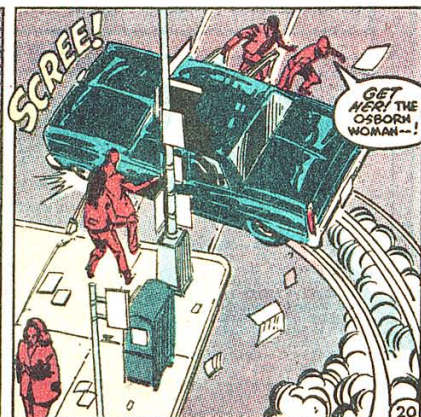
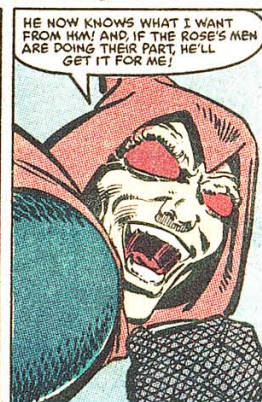
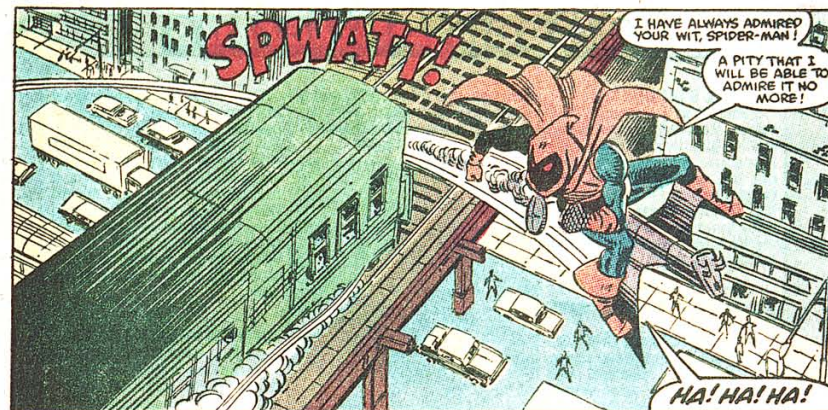
All submissions must be postmarked on or before March 1, 1985.

Once you've submitted your entry, just sit back and wait. We'll judge each entry and choose a winner in each category.

If you're a winner, you'll be given your first professional **MARVEL COMICS ASSIGNMENT** — to finish the Spider-Man story, "Personals," begun in the **Try-Out Book**. The completed story will be published in a special edition comic which will go on sale around Christmas 1985.

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SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Your future as a Marvel superstar awaits!



Bullpen Bulletins

I'M STILL STANDIN'...

Better than I ever did! And that's surprising, considering that I'm just back from the summer convention circuit, which is fun, but, nonetheless, will wear down even a large economy-size Editor in Chief, like myself. After three weeks on the road, the Wretched Mess Of Bullpen looks pretty good.

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

At the splendiferous CHICAGO COMICON, I met Colleen Doran, the beautiful, talented, and diabolically clever artist who illustrates *A Distant Soil*, published by Warp Graphics, the same charming people who bring you *Elfquest*. Noticing the rather large number of good-looking guys on the Marvel creative staff, she suggested that on this page we run a *Marvel Hunk of the Month* feature. She suggested John Romita, Jr. (the *X-Men* penciler), Bill Sienkiewicz (the *New Mutants* artist), Carl Potts (Editor of *Doctor*

Strange, and other stuff), and a few others for openers. Well, I'm game, if you ladies out there demand it. Whattaya say?



I'll be waiting to hear from you female readers about this idea. It seems crazy to me, but...

HYPE BOX

POWER PACK #6 — The smash sensation of the comics world breaks into the Marvel Universe! Join Energizer, Geo, Lightspeed and Mass Master as they run headlong into Dragon Man, Cloak and Dagger, and your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! You're in for a front row seat, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON, JUNE BRIGMAN, and BOB WIACEKI!

DAREDEVIL #214 — It's the end of the Michah Synn saga, and possibly of Daredevil himself! And what will be the startling effect upon those close to Matt Murdock? You must read "The Crumbling!"

Story by DENNY O'NEIL. Art by DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI.

THING #19 — John Byrne wrote a story that was just too big to appear all in this single issue, so it'll be continued this same month in *FANTASTIC FOUR* #274! That's right! You'll see the Thing appear in the pages of the FF for the first time since before the *SECRET WARS* began! "Monster Mash" is drawn by RON WILSON and JOE SINNOTT in *THE THING*, followed with art by JOHN BYRNE and AL GORDON in *FANTASTIC FOUR*! The Marvel Magic goes on!

One thing though — I drew the line at Colleen's other suggestion. I absolutely *refuse* to run a *Win a Dream Date With Bob Layton* (radio-active mutant writer / artist) Contest. Bob's a handsome guy, a terrific human being, and a close friend — but think how embarrassing it would be when he took the "lucky" winner to the movies and she found out that he glows in the dark.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN!

Ever have to make a phone call — a really urgent one — race to a pay phone, and discover that you don't have any change? It happened to me in Chicago. Fortunately, DC Comics Editor Julius Schwartz happened by and contributed two quarters to solve my problem. Now he refuses to let me pay him back so he can tell everyone that I'm "forever in his debt." Having worked for Julie briefly back in the early 1970's, and having learned much from his legendary self at that time, I already was forever in his debt. Talk about overkill.

WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

Next month. And by the way, thanks for making *Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars* the most popular comics series in the last quarter century.

Sincerely,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #19** — See Hype Box.
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #214** — See Hype Box.
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #23**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #35**
- ☐ **MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN** (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ **RED SONJA #5**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS** (Limited Series) #9
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN** (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #25**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #301**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #25**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #6** — See Hype Box.
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #4**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #18**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS** (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ **CONAN THE DESTROYER** (Limited Series) #1 — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the second hit Conan movie!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #1** — The Mutants meet a rock star named Lia Cheney, who's out to steal the Earth and Cannonball's heart.

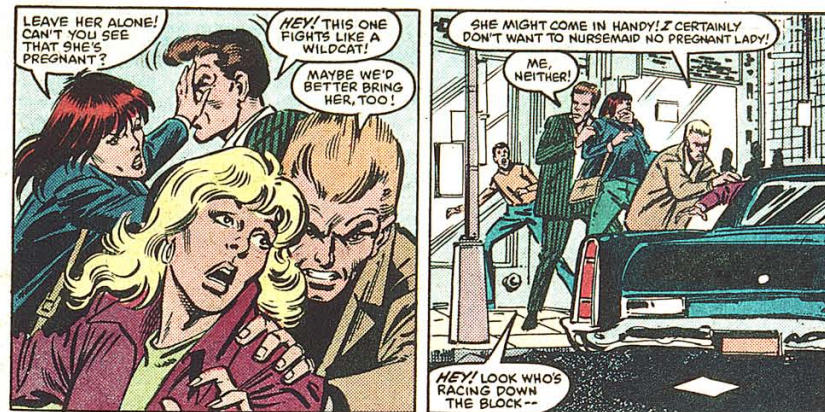
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #303**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #251**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #166**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #171** — Reprinting "Men on a Rampage" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #32.
- ☐ **X-MEN #189**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #190**
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #113**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #31**
- ☐ **QUESTPROBE** (Limited Series) #2 — Marvel's computer game comic book returns with *Spider-Man* and *Mysterio*!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #274**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #149** — Featuring *Spider-Man* and *Cannonball*.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #190**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #98**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #139**
- ☐ **SPIDER WARS #91**
- ☐ **THOR #351**

- ☐ **STARTRUCKS** (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE** (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ **DR. WHO #4**

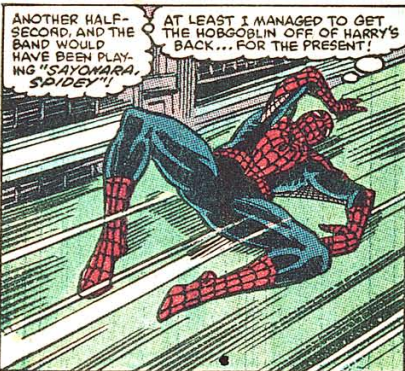
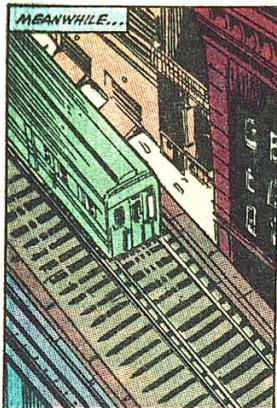
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- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #22**

- GRAPHIC NOVEL**
- ☐ **#13: STARSTRUCK** — The Off-Broadway science fiction smash by ELAINE LEE becomes Marvel's 13th Graphic Novel, with art by MIKE KALUTAI!



MEANWHILE...



NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-MAN BATTLES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF HIS FRIENDS-- AS HARRY OSBORN CONFRONTS THE GHOSTS OF HIS PAST; DON'T MISS--

"THE SINS OF MY FATHER!"

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DONATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Mr. Fingeroth:
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253 was a good issue, all around, though you better bring back the Rose. He's too good a villain to just be given a one-shot outing.

I do have one complaint though. I thought the editing this issue was some of the worst I've ever seen. Yes, that's right -- you heard me. I didn't like the editing! I think Danny Fingeroth did a really sloppy job editing this issue.

I tell ya, Fingeroth could really learn a thing or two about editing from that Mark Gruenwald -- now there's a real editor. Gruenwald brings that special level of professionalism to all his books. The man obviously cares enough to do the very best.

Fingeroth still has a ways to go. Listen to me, Danny: take lessons from Mark. He'll show you how it's done. Gruenwald is what they call an editor's editor -- a consummate professional. I can always tell when a comic has been edited by Gruenwald, since it is of such amazingly high quality. Any comic which Mark Gruenwald edits is one I would be proud to add to my collection.

As for you, Danny... well, keep trying. Maybe you'll get the hang of it eventually. After all, we can't all be Mark Gruenwalds. (By the way, Al Milgrom's cover drawing of the Blob was great! I've never seen anyone so repulsive!)

Barry Dutter
2283 Old Farm Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Well, Barry, I... I don't know what to say. I guess I'll have to reconsider all the nasty things I've been saying about meaty-mouthed Mark in our letters column feud. If a guy can elicit as much praise from you as Mark... well, what can I say? Markie, if you're willing to make up, tell me so right away. The lettercol in CAPTAIN AMERICA #301 would be the perfect place, beginning a new era for Cap as it does. I'll try to learn all I can from you -- provided we don't have to sit in the same room! (Oops. Sorry. I'll never do it again. Friends? Friends.)

Dear Spider-crew,
SPIDER-MAN #253 was a gem! Tom DeFalco was masterful, Rick Leonardi was true to form, and both performed superbly. Tom, I do like your style. The dialogue was tight, not at all detached or wandering. Possibly the nicest touch was Wendy Thornton's comment to Pete at the story's end. She unknowingly alluded to his biggest personal problem. I should hope he picked up on this.

Any relationship with Felicia Hardy, the Black Cat, is a mistake. She doesn't love Peter, she loves the web-slinging, living myth. She's far too careless with all the secrets Peter has shown her, and was really insensitive and even cruel when he showed his face. In short, she's trouble, and Peter belongs in school for now.

C'mon, Tom -- wake up Mary Jane Watson and make her realize it's only Peter for her. You'd have no trouble convincing Peter.

Kevin Lee Routon
1930 Almaden Rd., #76
San Jose, CA 95125

No trouble convincing Peter? Obviously, Kevin, you wrote this letter before M.J. spilled her heart to Peter a few issues back; there's no telling what will happen between them next. I can guarantee, though, that you'll be seeing some major changes -- and I do mean major -- in Peter's relationship with Felicia. Stay tuned to all three Spidey books.

By the way, we're tickled pink you like Rick Leonardi's pencils -- so tickled, in fact, that we felt we ought to tell you about the new CLOAK & DAGGER comic that Rick is penciling, even as we speak. It's gonna be a regular, bi-monthly book, written by Bill Mantlo, inked by Terry Austin and edited by Carl Potts -- and if you don't buy umpteen copies of the first issue you'll never forgive yourself! Look for it in a few months.

Dear Folks,

Just wanted to let you know my opinion of the occurrences in Spider-Man's life during the past few issues.

First, congratulations on the new costume -- what a knockout! It would be an understatement to say that Spidey's new look is sleek and sophisticated step into the '80s. Spider-Man does indeed look more "spidery" than ever: leaner, more athletic, all arms and legs. I'm sure the mysterious qualities the suit possesses will offer some interesting storylines in the months ahead, as well.

Rick Leonardi's pencils in #253 gave this book a style unique to the Amazing Spider-Man, and his rendition of the Rose caught me by surprise. I was expecting something quite different when I first learned of this new villain through the "Coming Attractions" column of MARVEL AGE. "The Rose" brought to mind images of some outlandish super-villainess, a la Poison Ivy -- well, when I'm wrong, I'm really wrong! This elegant evildoer is a classic representation of the masked crime lords from the pulp fiction of the '40s. I find something vaguely Nero Wolfe-ish about him, and being a true-blue Rex Stout fan, I mean that as a compliment.

Aunt May's reaction to the news of Peter having left school was realistic and well-handled. That one line -- "you've dropped out," in that tiny voice -- said it all. Her subsequent refusal to even speak with Peter, as depicted in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #91, shows how deeply he has inadvertently hurt her. It would seem that an important development in their relationship is on the horizon.

John Garner
5147 Denny, #1
N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Dear Marvel Comics,

I want to congratulate you on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253. I loved it! Rick Leonardi's art was fabulous and the story by Tom DeFalco was great. I especially liked Aunt May's reaction to Peter quitting school. The Rose is awesome, even though he didn't do much. I think he is

going to make a great villain. Keep up the good work!

"Madd John"
(No address give)
New York, NY

Dear Danny and Bob,

The Rose is excellent! It's better to have Spidey fighting down-to-earth organized crime than the usual super villains. It adds some realism to the book. Reading about the Rose in #253 immediately brought to mind another criminal: the Crimemaster. But, please, don't kill off the Rose in two issues like you did to the Crimemaster. Make him last!

Victor Marchetti
7885 15th St.
Bry. B.C. V3N 3A3
Canada

Dear Spider-Guys,

Wow! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253 was perfect in every way! The story, the art -- even the coloring seemed special! Who is this new guy Bill Anderson? He's terrific! He has a unique style which fits Leonardi's pencils even better than Terry Austin's. And I thought that Michael Golden was the ultimate Spider-Man artist! I think I like Leonardi even better. Soon Ron Frenz will be returning, drawing in full pencils! It will be very hard to choose which artist I would rather have.

Tom, the story was great. You obviously spent a lot of time developing it, and the Rose looks like he will be a good returning villain. The story was a good portrayal of modern sports -- the things that go on that the public doesn't always know about.

A few last thoughts: Wendy seems like she could be a nice person, but she has to lighten up a bit! Someone as insensitive as her needs to learn to have a little compassion. Also, Spidey's new costume is getting even better and better. It filters unhealthy air, too! But would it be able to survive Los Angeles smog? Great idea about the uniform not fitting around Peter's fingertips when he was holding onto the ramp.

J.M.R.N.
688 E. 7th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11218

NEXT: Spider-Man's showdown with the Rose and the Hobgoblin... and a turning point of monumental stature for Mary Jane, Liz... and especially for Harry Osborn! Everything comes to a head in "The Sins of My Father!" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261. You don't wanna miss it.

Danny Fingeroth
P.S. Fans of Spidey's bi-ack suit especially won't want to miss next issue -- or FANTASTIC FOUR #274, either. You've been notified.

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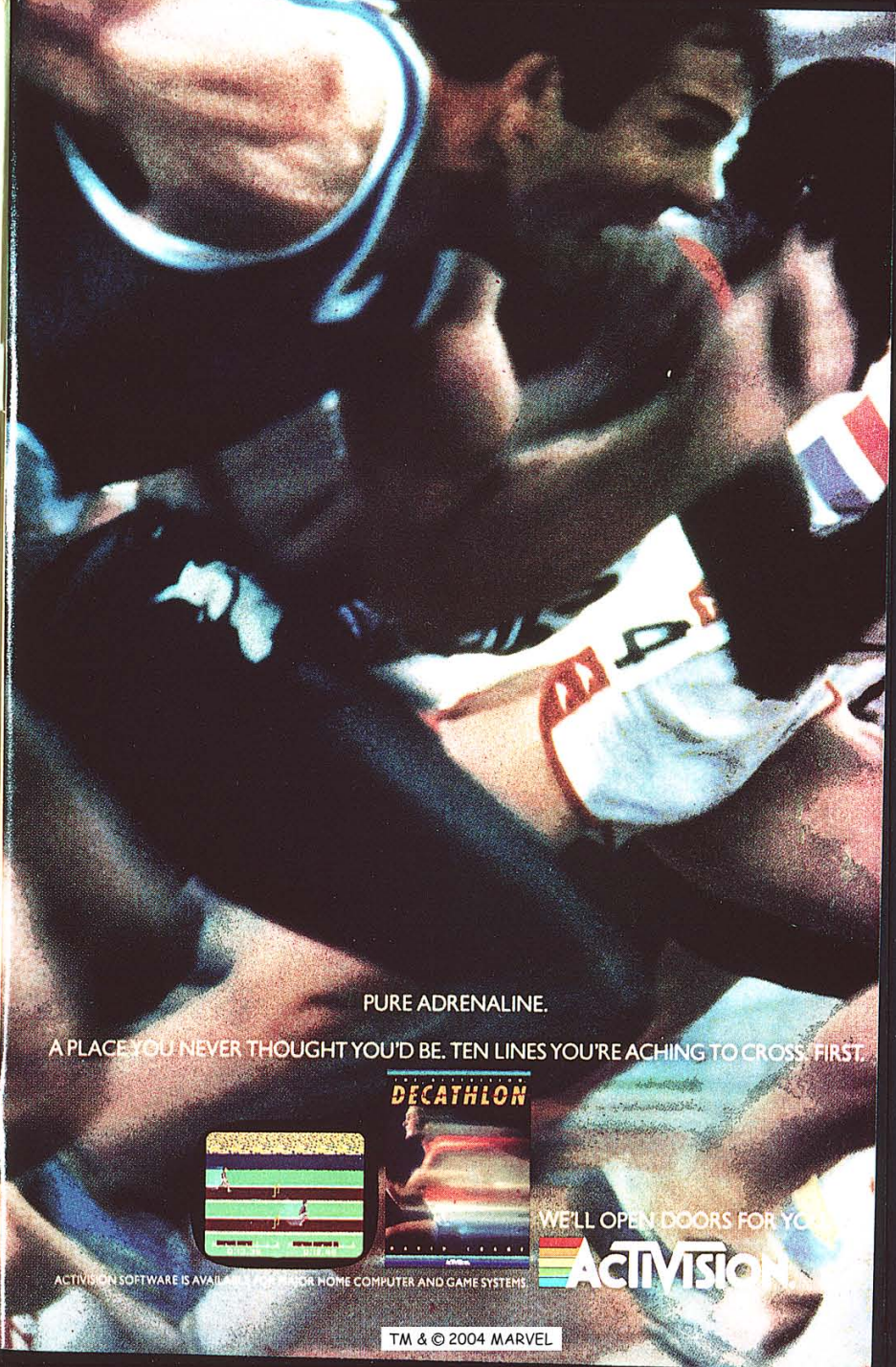
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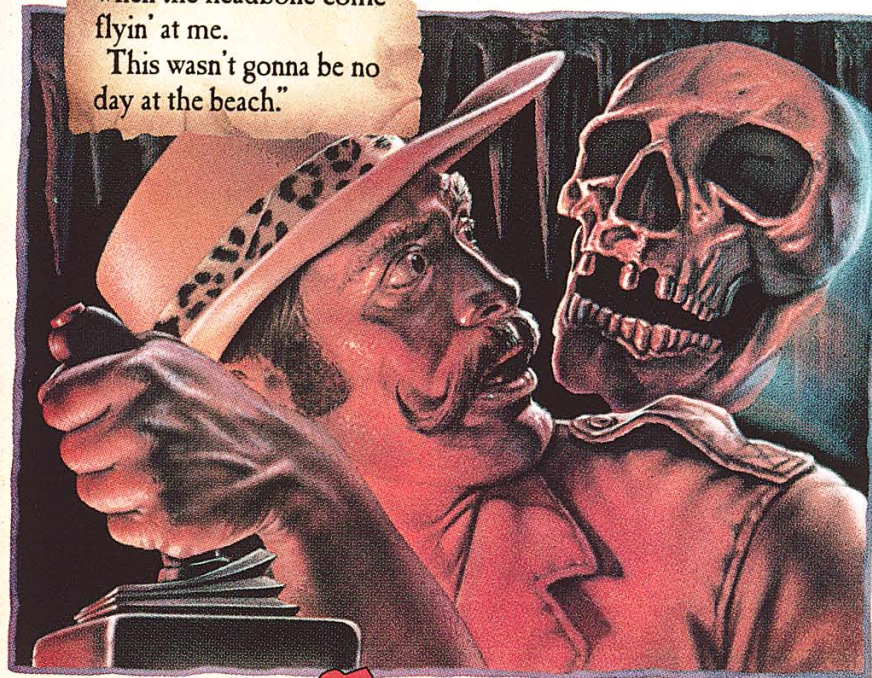
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when the headbone come
flyin' at me.

This wasn't gonna be no
day at the beach."

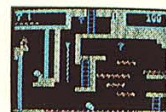


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